



# Cathedral of the Assumption

Sunday, 11th January 2026

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Parish Facebook.... Carlow cathedral parish

Parish Twitter @carlowcathedral

### The Parish Team

Fr. Thomas O'Byrne Adm.

Fr Yanbo Chen CC

Fr Theodore Tomaszik CC

The Presbytery,  
Old Dublin Road,  
Carlow.

Tel: 059 913 1227

Priest on Duty  
(089)2432663

Deacon David O'Flaherty

### Child Safeguarding Reps

Richard Hoolan

Niamh Brennan

059 9164087

### Diocesan Designated

#### Liaison Person

Ms Ailish Higgins

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#### Parish Centre

Tel: 059 9164087

info@carlowcathedral.ie

#### Newsletter

info@carlowcathedral.ie

By 4pm Wednesday

#### Banking Details

Carlow Parish Account

IBAN; IE66 AIBK 9331

0405 634065

BIC AIBKIE2D

Carlow Parish Clergy

IBAN; IE55 AIBK 9331

0405 6346 51

BIC AIBKIE2D



### Marked by Water, Named as Beloved

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord brings the Christmas season to a gentle close and opens the path into Ordinary Time.

At the Jordan, Jesus steps into the waters not because he needs cleansing, but because he chooses closeness. He stands with humanity as it is, revealing a God who does not remain distant, but enters fully into human life.

The voice from heaven names Jesus before he has preached or performed any sign: *"This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him."* This moment reminds us that identity comes before activity. Jesus is loved first, and everything else flows from that relationship. Faith begins not with achievement or perfection, but with being received and named by God.

Isaiah describes God's servant as gentle and faithful—one who does not break the crushed reed or quench the wavering flame. This is the style of God revealed at the Jordan: quiet strength, patient mercy, and a justice that heals rather than harms. It is a reassurance for all who feel fragile, overlooked, or weary.

Our own baptism draws us into this same story. We, too, are claimed as God's beloved and entrusted with the Spirit. As we move from the celebrations of Christmas into the ordinary rhythms of life, this feast invites us to live with confidence and compassion—carrying God's peace into our homes, workplaces, and communities.

The Baptism of the Lord reminds us that Christian life begins not with what we do for God, but with who we are in God: loved, accompanied, and gently sent.

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### The Baptism of Christ

Beginning here we glimpse the Three-in-one;  
The river runs, the clouds are torn apart,  
The Father speaks, the Spirit and the Son  
Reveal to us the single loving heart  
That beats behind the being of all things  
And calls and keeps and kindles us to light.  
The dove descends, the spirit soars and sings  
'You are belovèd, you are my delight!'  
In that swift light and life, as water spills  
And streams around the Man like quickening rain,  
The voice that made the universe reveals  
The God in Man who makes it new again.  
He calls us too, to step into that river,  
To die and rise and live and love forever.

Malcolm Guite



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### MASSES AT THE CATHEDRAL

**Weekend:** Vigil Saturday 6.15pm, Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.30pm, and 7pm.

**Weekdays:** - Monday to Friday 7.30am and 10am. Saturday 10am

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday following the 10am Mass

### We remember in our prayer

**Teresa Cleary**, "Erindale Cottage", Kilkenny Road,

*May Teresa rest in peace*

*May all who mourn be comforted*

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### Male Domestic Abuse

The male domestic abuse support service offers 1:1 confidential support to men experiencing abuse of any kind from their partner of any gender. Please contact 0832088689 or email [lauryan@bagenalstownfrc.ie](mailto:lauryan@bagenalstownfrc.ie) for more information.

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### Cathedral Collections

Last Weekend

Offertory      €1,149.16

Development    € 2,159.18

*Your kind generosity is deeply appreciated*

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### 2026 Envelopes

The Cathedral Parish Envelopes are now available at the entrances to the Cathedral and from the Parish Centre.

Thank you for your support of the Parish, the Clergy and the various annual collections, through your use of the Parish Envelope. Your Envelope Number changes each year, we therefore request you to write your name and address on the first four envelopes you use. This will enable us to ensure that the envelope number is registered to your name.

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### HUGG Support Group

HUGG is the national suicide bereavement organisation dedicated to supporting adults bereaved by suicide. We provide FREE practical information and emotional support after suicide. HUGG announce the **launch of a suicide bereavement support group in Carlow**. The monthly support group will meet on a Tuesday evening, 7.30pm to 9.30pm facilitated by trained volunteers with a lived experience of suicide loss. **To register for a HUGG Support Group** complete the form at <http://www.HUGG.ie/> or email [support@HUGG.ie](mailto:support@HUGG.ie) or call 01 513 4048 (monitored answering machine) and a member of the HUGG team will contact you.

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### Carlow Active Retirement

Carlow Active Retirement members' meeting will be held on Wednesday, 14th, January at 2.30 in the Cathedral Parish Centre.

New members welcome

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### Bob's Your Uncle Lotto

**Jackpot**

**Sunday 4th January**

**€5,500**

**Numbers drawn on 4th January**

**1-9-17-26**

### Baptism of Our Lord – what does it mean to say, 'I am baptised'?

With the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord we mark the end of the Christmas season, as on Monday we begin Ordinary Time. Jesus' baptism was a significant moment in the life of Jesus – a moment that led to a new beginning as Jesus began his public ministry on earth. Reflecting on Jesus' baptism might also be a good time to reflect on our own baptism. Baptism marks for us a new beginning.

It is not so much that we were baptised, but rather, that we are baptised. What difference does that make to who we are in the world? What does it mean practically and spiritually for you to say, 'I am baptised' What might it mean?

*Synod conversations in Ireland and across the world highlighted the huge importance of baptism. The preparatory document for the 2025 pre-synodal national assembly offers a short reflection paper, by Fr Liam Bergin, outlining a fresh understanding of baptism. It can be read at [www.synod.ie](http://www.synod.ie) or via the QR Code,*



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### Extraordinary Consistory

*Reflect on the words that Pope Leo shared as he addressed the opening of the extraordinary Consistory on Wednesday.*

The liturgy on the Feast of the Epiphany echoed the ever-moving appeal of the prophet Isaiah: "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn" (Isaiah 60:1-3).

These words call to mind the beginning of the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Church.

*Christ is the light of the nations and consequently this holy Synod, gathered together in the Holy Spirit, ardently desires to bring all humanity that light of Christ which is resplendent on the face of the Church, by proclaiming his Gospel to every creature (cf. Mark 16:15). Since the Church, in Christ, is a sacrament — a sign and instrument, that is, of communion with God and of the unity of the entire human race — it here proposes, for the benefit of the faithful and of the entire world, to describe more clearly, and in the tradition laid down by earlier councils, its own nature and universal mission. The present situation lends greater urgency to this duty of the Church, so that all people, who nowadays are drawn ever more closely together by social, technical and cultural bonds, may achieve full unity in Christ (Lumen Gentium, 1).*

While centuries apart, we can say that the Holy Spirit inspired the same vision in the prophet and in the Council Fathers, namely the vision of the light of the Lord illuminating the holy city — first Jerusalem, then the Church. The guidance of this light enables all peoples to walk in the midst of the darkness of the world. What Isaiah announced figuratively, the Council recognizes in the fully revealed reality of Christ, the light of the nations.

*An invitation to personalise the reflections of Pope Leo:*

Pray come Holy Spirit.... Pray for a openness in our hearts to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we discern and respond, praying as Jesus taught us.... Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be come!